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MEDIA RELEASE

May 4, 1987

RUSSIAN POET TO GIVE READING AT UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

MISSOULA --

On a stopover between St. Louis and San Francisco during his national tour, Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko will arrive in Missoula Sunday, May 17, to give a reading of his work at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts and Radio/Television Center at the University of Montana. His visit to Missoula is sponsored by the Hellgate Writers Club and the Montana Committee for the Humanities. UM is hosting the event.

Yevtushenko is a poet widely respected not only in the Soviet Union, but internationally. He has a reputation for not being afraid of topical themes such as anti-semitism, which he wrote about in his poem, "Babii yar." Born in Siberia in 1933, Yevtushenko spent most of his childhood in Moscow and still makes his home there. He published his first poem in 1949 at the age of 16 and later attended Moscow's prestigious Gorky Literary Institute. He has served on the editorial board of the magazine "Yunost."

Yevtushenko has published numerous collections of poetry, which have been translated into several different languages, in addition to a book, "A Precocious Autobiography." He wrote and directed the film "Kindergarten," which recently appeared in

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Missoula. Yevtushenko, who originally captured the imagination of young people in the 1960's and 1970's, is an enthusiastic supporter of Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms in the Soviet Union.

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